



PATENT  
713629.303

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Zhang, Jingen

Examiner: Hamlin, Derrick G

Serial No.: 09/851,072

Group Art Unit: 1751

Filed: May 8, 2001

Attorney Docket No.: 393042

For: FUNCTIONAL FLUID  
COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING  
EPOXIDE ACID SCAVENGERS

Customer No.: 027128

Confirmation No.: 2831

Last Office Action: March 10, 2004

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, dated March 10, 2004, Applicant hereby provisionally elects for prosecution at this time Group I Claims 1-30, drawn to a function fluid composition. The election of Group I claims is made with traverse traverse without prejudice to the elected Group I claims and without prejudice to the non-elected Group II and III claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction are respectfully requested. The Applicant contends that Group I, II and III claims are closely related and have a common utility. The Applicant further contends that the Group I, II and III claims do not pose a serious burden for the examiner by requiring two separate searches.

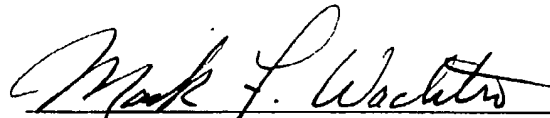
Because Applicant may wish to ~~pursue claims of the non-elected Group at a later~~  
date by Divisional Application, if necessary, it is requested that these claims, pursuant to 37  
CFR 1.142, be permitted to remain in the application.

This response does not present any new matter. Accordingly, as all requirements of  
the Action have been complied with, an action on the merits and a Notice of Allowance are  
hereby respectfully solicited.

If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present  
application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance  
this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any  
questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner  
please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2004



Mark F. Wachter  
Reg. No. 27,243  
Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP  
720 Olive Street, 24th Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
(314) 345-6000

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT